

Application No.: 09/741,072

Docket No.: OBLON3457-C

**REMARKS**RECEIVED  
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**Present Status of the Application**

Claims 1, 4-7 and 11-15 were previously pending in the application.

Claims 12, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Numoto et al. (USPN 6,203,414).

Claim 1, 4-7, 11 and 14 are allowed.

Claims 1, 4-7 and 11-15 remain pending in the application, while claim 12, 13 and 15 have been cancelled. This Amendment is promptly filed to place the above-captioned case in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the claims, specification or otherwise in the application. After entry of the foregoing amendments, a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

**Discussion for 35 USC 102 rejections**

Claims 12, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Numoto et al. (USPN 6,203,414).

The independent claims 12, 13 and 15 have been cancelled. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 12, 13 and 15 under 35 USC §102(e) be withdrawn.

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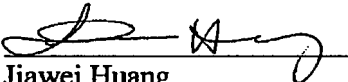
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claims 1, 4-7, 11 and 14 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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